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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT  
INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
SUBJECT Zerbst Airfield

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(LISTED BELOW)  
SUPPLEMENT  
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1. There was no flying at the Zerbst (M 52/D 96) airfield on 4 May 1950. The sky was overcast. Ten fighters with propellers were parked on the northern edge of the field at 10 a.m. and three jet fighters with swept-back wings stood in front of the middle hangar. Four AA guns with an estimated caliber of 75 mm. were emplaced in the extension of the runway on the western edge of the field. (1) The barracks build-ings were surrounded by a wooden fence, 2 meters high.
2. Sixteen jet fighters and seventeen conventional fighters were at the field on 13 May 1950. The jet fighters made a few 10-minute flights in fair weather. A searchlight recently set up 300 meters west of the hangars was in operation on the evening of 12 May 1950. (2)
3. On 13 May 1950, 20 single-engine aircraft with in-line engines, 10 single-engine aircraft with radial engines and red propellers, and 18 jet fighters with swept-back wings were counted at the field. The air intake of the jet fighters was larger than the air exhaust. Both apertures had a red rim. Some of the planes were silver-colored, others brown. The total occupation of the field could not be determined because one han-gar was closed. A group of 30 soldiers, wearing red-bordered, black epaulets, under the command of an artillery officer, and many air force soldiers were seen on the road to the field.
4. About 200 gasoline drums were at either side of the railroad spur track. (3) Searchlights, about 60 cm in diameter and pointed upward at an angle of about 45 degrees, were installed on masts, 2½ meters high, and about 50 meters apart. (2) The masts were arranged north of and parallel to the runway. The searchlights beamed their light parallel to the runway. The radar set, previously seen near the customs mill, was not observed.
5. There was much flying at the field between 6 and 17 May 1950. Flights were also made in rainy weather but always below the cloud cover. The jet fighters almost always took off and landed in forma-tions of four. Their flying time could not be determined

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6. Up to three conventional fighters landed at the field each night with one searchlight in operation. (4) The searchlight, pointed upward at an angle of about 45 degrees, was continuously lighted and rotated irregularly to both sides. (2) The AA gun emplacement was still on the western edge of the field. (1)

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Comments:

- (1) The presence of AA guns on the western edge of the field is confirmed by other sources.
- (2) The information on searchlights set up parallel to the runway is received for the first time. It is assumed that the fighter units also make night flights. Jet planes stationed in Zerbst have not previously been known to make night flights.
- (3) The arrangement of aircraft supports the previous assumption that each of the two fighter regiments is equipped with jet planes, since the jet aircraft are parked separately.
- (4) The planes seen at the field on the various days of observation do not represent the total occupation of the Zerbst airfield. The field is occupied by two fighter regiments. The exact number of jet aircraft stationed in Zerbst is not known.

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